CLAIMS

1.   A method for protecting files distributed over a network, comprising the steps of:

    displaying a list of files;

    generating protection status information in response to selection by a user of at least one of the files in the list of files; and

    sending the protection status information to a server computer.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said displaying step displays a list of files together with a corresponding protection status for each file in the list of files, and wherein the method further comprises the step of modifying protection status of at least one of the files, and wherein said sending step sends modified protection status information to a server computer.

3.   The method of claim 1 further comprising recording the protection status information in a protection status database.

4.   A system for protecting files distributed over a network, comprising:

    a user interface displaying a list of files;

    a protection status manager generating protection status information in response to selection by a user of at least one of the files in the list of files; and

    a transmitter sending the protection status information to a server computer.

5.   The system of claim 4 wherein said user interface displays a list of files together with a corresponding protection status for each file in the list of files, and wherein the protection status manager modifies protection status of at least one of the

4   files, and wherein said transmitter sends modified protection status information to a

5   server computer.

1   6.   The system of claim 4 further comprising a database manager recording the

2   protection status information in a protection status database.